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THE FEVER COMMISSION.

The report of the Commission appointed to enquire into the cause of the fever prevailing in the Western District was laid on the table of the Legislative Council on the 17th of December, 1887, and the report is dated the 13th August, 1888. It is too long for reproduction in this paper, but the following are the preliminary part, and the recommendations we reproduce at length.

Regarding the nature of the diseases found prevalent in the Western District the Commissioner of the Western District writes:—
"The diseases complained of were chiefly malarial, and that the fever epidemic at the time, was distinctly so. 2nd.—That fever appears to be endemic in the Western District, and that it has possibly been more prevalent during the periods complained of in the petition. 3rd.—That a small percentage of the cases which came before the Commissioner in evidence exhibited symptoms of malarial fever."

Regarding the causes of illness, the report deals with (1) the absence of subsoil drainage; (2) earth entombing; (3) absence of cultivation; (4) the nature of the houses; and (5) the general unsanitary conditions that exist in the district. A considerable portion of the report is taken up with statements to the defective drainage and sewerage and absence of drainage ventilation.

1.—That sub-soil drainage be proceeded with at once.—From information gathered from reliable sources, it is possible to proceed with such drainage without waiting for more radical measures to be taken, and to improve the drainage, or in the improvements providing for the amelioration of the present condition contained in the Public Health Ordinance.

2.—That the soil and water should involve would be small, and from the arguments already given, need only extend to the Western District.

The drainage should be of the nature of sub-soil drainage.

As to the prompt disposal of the white-water the Commissioner believes that it will be useful to carry into the already existing drainage sewer or sewers, the fall being so great that the water will run off by itself.

As to the future disposal of sub-soil water and storm water in newly constructed drainage works, the Commissioners are of opinion that the subject should be carefully considered as to whether drains or drains or drains or drains or drains for sub-soil water and storm water, which may or may not join the sewers, be the better.

II.—That the period of Earth Entombing be regulated by law.—It is noted that newly cut virgin soil, more especially in ill drained or swampy districts, is followed by an outbreak of fever. The Commissioners would advise the period of such entombings below the level of the Potomac Aqueduct be limited to the months of December, January, February, March, April, and May, and that it be prohibited during the month of June, July, August, September, October, November, and December.

That such a recommendation may meet with strong opposition the members of the Commission are quite aware; but they are of opinion that the health of the community should not be endangered for mere convenience. In other words, that the lives of the inhabitants should not be sacrificed to further private ends.

Only in non-malarial districts, if such there are, it may be of the purpose of the still further defence of the island, and the entombings be allowed during other months than those mentioned.

III.—That newly cut soil be covered over with top-soil, and subsoil drainage be carried out at three inches, or by concrete or by drains.—All newly cut marines must be covered by the top of June.

tion, let the Commissioners to make the necessary recommendations for cools quarters and latrines to be built for the reduction of the same.

a.—No soil to be allowed to sleep on the ground floor unless it be ventilated below.

b.—No cools house to be built unless provision is made that there be at least two storeys.

c.—No cools apartment to be under 9 feet high.

d.—No cools to have less than 800 cubic feet of space.

e.—That perforated air bricks be put into each cools apartment; the air bricks to each apartment to be two in number and situated on each outside wall, but not opposite each other, and to be so placed as to be 10 by 8 inches with an open area of 24 square inches.

f.—That greatest care be taken with the cools latrines; by the provision of a proper drainage system, and by the removal of the same; and by the prevention on the part of occupants of houses of their cools using the soil, whether field or garden, surrounding the gardens around their own houses.

g.—The system of cools latrines is one upon which the Commissioners feel strongly. They do advise that a reward be offered by Government for the best plan for the improvement of the system of cools latrines, to be exhibited in the premises, with the attention of cools soil.

h.—It is hoped that thereby attention of practical engineers and sanitary men be turned to the subject and a more successful improvement brought about. The plan awarded with the night soil in the Colony is considered to be that of the past system. That it is not the case in all instances is viewed with regret, and the Commissioners are anxious to rectify the carelessness of cools and owners, render the pail system a mere name. In first place much of the night soil is lost in making privies, latrines, and in carrying the loads of night house. And many latrines flow from cools latrines, and in great measure the permanent flow, and in a very direct manner the consequence.

i.—The Commissioners think they exist in the hotels, some of the Clubs, the Gad, the Civil Police Office, the Government House, and the Government Office. The last four mentioned are direct under the control of Government, and from them the Commissioners would recommend a reconstruction of the latrine mentioned. It is an anxious question whether or not it be the duty of the Government to continue the reconstruction of such latrines, and the Commissioners would recommend that the Government generally. The Commissioners would recommend that either the pail system, or other system be adopted, and they would strongly urge the practice of removing night soil from the latrines, and the Commissioners would draw attention to the fact that the withholding night soil from the sewers does no good, and with the necessity for pipe sewers. They would recommend the general adoption of pipe sewers, in addition to, sub-sell and surface drainage.

j.—The petitioners have specified various grievances under paragraphs A, B, C, D, which come under the heading of the night soil. The Commission consider that these are fairly stated and require to be attended to.

k.—Under paragraph A are two distinct grievances:—As to the quarters within the premises, and as to the inmates of the premises, both home and home, without providing any accommodation, is to spread the soil to other latrines, so that while using even the Government latrine to do with the question, and recommend that the Commission should take the important point of view, the members of the Commission should be from time to time to be removed by the Sanitary Commission.

l.—The ground floor latrine, as a whole, but

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on the Board?
PRESIDENT—Certainly.
VICE-PRESIDENT—I should think
of a small expense necessary.
PRESIDENT—I don't know whether you
think that the letters should go to the
General's Office for transmission.
VICE-PRESIDENT—All applications are
to be on the Board on the average?
JOSEPH—Taking the year all around
on a week.
VICE-PRESIDENT—I see no reason for
neglecting the custom of this colony and of
other countries that all communications
addressed to you in the language of the coun-
try are in.
PRESIDENT—O'Connell—I should like to
say that it is not the custom here.
VICE-PRESIDENT—Well, we don't belong to
there, yet.
REGISTRAR-GENERAL—When this com-
munication is received, I am authorized
to request that every communi-
cation the Government would be made in
our language.
VICE-PRESIDENT—That is a fallacy.
The Government has been raised as it gives
an opportunity to explode it. I will not
go into the explanation in my own words, but
because of a high authority whom I
have heard of, and who is a man of
high repute, or to be issued at the time when this
was held by force of arms, but when it
was held by treaty these proclamations were
made by him.
VICE-PRESIDENT—GENERAL—I only know the
it is still for the Chinese, and they are en-
dorsed in it, to make their petitions in their
language.
JOSEPH said that the custom of the
Board in issuing sentences or any order
to a man was bound to obey under a penalty
if they were in English and Chinese. Here
communication that was to be obeyed un-
der a penalty, and I thought it should be
a man in a language he could understand.
amendment of the Registrar-General
as an act to the Board and carried by a ma-
jority of five to three.
JOSEPH proposed in the same motion,
the words "and it shall not be"
for all such person to commence the new
act the approval of the Sanitary Surveyor.
He has been previously punished by him "the
new act" and I thought it should be
of several days. He should not have
any notice of disapproval he should not
stop, go will be a matter of several
of several days. He should not have
be employed on other things. He was
arrested as to seven days being the limit.
JOSEPH proposed to amend the words
at it, but, having he thought was sufficient.
VICE-PRESIDENT—It is easy in such a
case, or the man to appeal to the Board.
VICE-PRESIDENT—GENERAL—The by-laws must
be amended, and of getting as good design
as possible.
FRANCOIS—I think the by-law which
said it would provide for this. It says "If
in seven days after the date of the meeting
of the Board, no notice, no intimation
has been received by the builder, that the said
work has been discontinued, or, then, the
approval of the Board shall be required with
the consent of the Surveyor-General, and with
the approval of the Board and its officers."
VICE-PRESIDENT—Will you move your
amendment?
JOSEPH—Yes, I am addressing the Board.
I have to the end of what I have to say
will not put the amendment.
VICE-PRESIDENT—You have already
said that, and I don't know what you
are talking about, and you have said that
the work is not done.

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SHANGHAI TRADE AND COMMERCE
MUSEUM.

The following, by Mr. H. B. Myers, Hon. Secretary of the China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, appears in the N. C. Daily News:—

For many years the attention of the commercial nations of the world has been directed to the necessity of organising their commercial energies, and securing by this organisation that supremacy in matters of trade which, in warlike, disciplined bodies of troops exerted over unorganised hordes, has been the basis of their power.

Now, however, the attention has been directed to the formation of Societies of Commercial Geography; of these no less than 38 in nine countries have been formed, and a steady stream of commercial knowledge is now poured upon the world, but there especially upon those communities which have been hitherto almost altogether unknown to the Societies in their midst. The Society of Commercial Geography, being merely a disseminator of theoretic information was found, however, to be

NORTH CHINA INSURANCE COM.
PANY. LIMITED.

The ninth ordinary general meeting of shareholders in the North China Insurance Company, Limited, was held at Shanghai on the 15th instant. Mr. E. H. Lavers, the Chairman of the Board of Directors, presided, and there were present Messrs. F. H. Bell, W. Brand, J. A. Hawes, H. B. Hearn, A. C. Westall, A. G. Wood (Directors), W. C. Ward, C. Moller, A. S. T.

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

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POLIO CLUB.

This young and rising Club made its debut on the 19th instant, when the number of people assembled to see a good exhibition of the popular pastime were not disappointed. The day was all that could be desired, the sun shone brightly, and the ground, thanks to the care that has been bestowed on it since the Club was started, was in a very fair condition. The sides for the first game consisted of Captain Collinson (Captain), and Messrs. Johnson and Woodcock (Captains), and Messrs. Fletcher (Captain), and Messrs. Bethell and Gray. The ball was rolling at 5.30 p.m., and from the start the play was fast and accurate, the bowlers, with the exception of the last, showing a keenness and activity that bodes well for the future success of the Club. The Reds, who were rather stronger than their opponents, had them lodged in about their middle about ten minutes, and notwithstanding the rain, the well-worked attempts to get the ball out of such dangerous proximity to their goal they were gradually beaten back. Mr. Bethell then saw his opportunity, and by a well-aimed shot drove the ball for the first time. The Reds, who were rather stronger than their opponents, had them lodged in about their middle about ten minutes, and notwithstanding the rain, the well-worked attempts to get the ball out of such dangerous proximity to their goal they were gradually beaten back. Mr. Bethell then saw his opportunity, and by a well-aimed shot drove the ball for the first time.

The sides in the second game were Whites: Captain Collinson (Captain), Col. Crater, and Messrs. Woodcock and Anderson. Reds: Mr. Armstrong (Capt.), Captain Fletcher, and Messrs. Bethell, Whitehead, and Woodcock. The game was started quickly with a good knock-out from the Whites, and the Whites, who were rather stronger than their opponents, had them lodged in about their middle about ten minutes, and notwithstanding the rain, the well-worked attempts to get the ball out of such dangerous proximity to their goal they were gradually beaten back. Mr. Bethell then saw his opportunity, and by a well-aimed shot drove the ball for the first time.

HONGKONG.

The north-west monsoon has set in in earnest now, and during the past few days a splendid weather has been experienced. The Legislative Council met on the 17th inst., when Mr. Crossland read his message on the Estimates for the year 1889. The message was read in Chinese, and was interpreted by Mr. Crossland. The Council then proceeded to discuss the Estimates, and Mr. Crossland read his message on the Estimates for the year 1889. The message was read in Chinese, and was interpreted by Mr. Crossland. The Council then proceeded to discuss the Estimates, and Mr. Crossland read his message on the Estimates for the year 1889.

The appointment of Mr. George J. Phillips, B.A., to be Clerk to the Police Judge, has been made. Mr. Phillips is a young man of high standing, and is well qualified for the position. He has been appointed to the position of Clerk to the Police Judge, and will be responsible for the management of the Court. He is a young man of high standing, and is well qualified for the position.

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On discharging the cargo of the *Chesapeake* it has been found that notwithstanding the rough treatment to which it has been subjected, it is quite unharmed. We understand that Messrs. James, Matheson & Co., Agents for the Canton Insurance Office, have addressed a letter to Captain Smith and his wife, congratulating them on the safe arrival of the ship, and expressing their appreciation of the skill and seamanship displayed by him under the very trying circumstances, and to himself and crew as a mark of their appreciation of the skill and seamanship displayed by him under the very trying circumstances, and to himself and crew as a mark of their appreciation of the skill and seamanship displayed by him under the very trying circumstances.

At 4 o'clock on the morning of the 22nd inst., a fire broke out in the warehouse of the Hong Kong Public Schools, situated at the corner of the 114th Street, near the Canton Road. The fire was caused by a candle, and spread rapidly to the roof, which is a wooden structure, and also to the ground floor, which was soon in a blaze. It was thought at one time that the house at the back would be gutted, but thanks to the efforts of the firemen, the fire was brought under control, and the warehouse was saved. The fire was caused by a candle, and spread rapidly to the roof, which is a wooden structure, and also to the ground floor, which was soon in a blaze.

On the 19th inst., a party of eight men, known as the "Whites," were seen in the vicinity of the Canton Road. They were seen in the vicinity of the Canton Road, and were seen in the vicinity of the Canton Road. They were seen in the vicinity of the Canton Road, and were seen in the vicinity of the Canton Road.

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HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

PROGRAMME OF THE SIXTH RIFLE MEETING. TO BE HELD AT KOWLOON, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND, 1888. SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH, 1888. AGGREGATE VALUE OF PRIZES.

1. ALL COMERS. First stage, distance 200 yards; second stage, distance 300 yards; No. of shots, seven at each; entrance fee, 20 cents at each; unlimited entries, but competitors not allowed to take more than one prize at each distance. Twenty prizes, presented by the Association, aggregate value, \$122.

2. ALL RIFLE. Distance, 300 yards; No. of shots, ten; entrance fee, \$1. Two prizes.

3. ALL RIFLE. Distance, 300 yards; No. of shots, ten; entrance fee, \$1. Two prizes.

4. ALL RIFLE. Distance, 300 yards; No. of shots, ten; entrance fee, \$1. Two prizes.

5. ALL RIFLE. Distance, 300 yards; No. of shots, ten; entrance fee, \$1. Two prizes.

6. ALL RIFLE. Distance, 300 yards; No. of shots, ten; entrance fee, \$1. Two prizes.

7. ALL RIFLE. Distance, 300 yards; No. of shots, ten; entrance fee, \$1. Two prizes.

8. ALL RIFLE. Distance, 300 yards; No. of shots, ten; entrance fee, \$1. Two prizes.

9. ALL RIFLE. Distance, 300 yards; No. of shots, ten; entrance fee, \$1. Two prizes.

10. ALL RIFLE. Distance, 300 yards; No. of shots, ten; entrance fee, \$1. Two prizes.

11. ALL RIFLE. Distance, 300 yards; No. of shots, ten; entrance fee, \$1. Two prizes.

12. ALL RIFLE. Distance, 300 yards; No. of shots, ten; entrance fee, \$1. Two prizes.

13. ALL RIFLE. Distance, 300 yards; No. of shots, ten; entrance fee, \$1. Two prizes.

14. ALL RIFLE. Distance, 300 yards; No. of shots, ten; entrance fee, \$1. Two prizes.

15. ALL RIFLE. Distance, 300 yards; No. of shots, ten; entrance fee, \$1. Two prizes.

16. ALL RIFLE. Distance, 300 yards; No. of shots, ten; entrance fee, \$1. Two prizes.

17. ALL RIFLE. Distance, 300 yards; No. of shots, ten; entrance fee, \$1. Two prizes.

NOTICE.

COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES. PAQUEBOTS POSTES FRANCAIS. FOR SHANGHAI, KOBE, AND YOKOHAMA. THE Company's Steamers.

THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY'S Steamship "HIDASPES," Captain W. E. Thompson, will be despatched from this office on WEDNESDAY, the 24th inst., at 10 p.m.

THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY AND OTHER CONNECTING RAILWAY LINES & STEAMERS. THE British Steamship.

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THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY AND OTHER CONNECTING RAILWAY LINES & STEAMERS. THE British Steamship.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

STEAMSHIP FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG, COLOMBO, ADEN, PORT SAID, MARSEILLES, MALTA, GIBRALTAR, BRINDISI, PLYMOUTH, AND LONDON.

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TO BE LET.

COAL GODOWNS A B C D at Praya East on Marine Lot No. 117 and 118. Lot No. 431. (Possession on the 1st October, 1888.)

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not, probably, were it possible, be attended with the happy results, which its advocates appear to hope for. "I will buy with you, sell with you, walk with you, talk with you, and so forth," says Shylock to Bassanio and his friends when they invited him to partake of their hospitality, "but I will not eat with you, drink with you, nor pray with you" and the idea conveyed in his words sums up pretty accurately the feeling entertained by the subject of our review towards the two extremes of both classes. That Mr. NORMAN expresses it, "the dislike which each side entertains for the other" may disappear in time as a hope which we may all rob and trust to see realized before long, but this happy result will not be brought about as Mr. NORMAN thinks, "by a complete mingling" socially, and increasing prosperity of the Colony, and also in part, as regards Assessed taxes, the more careful rating and better collection of the same.

It will, however, be observed that the actual sum of £1,737,715, the difference being produced as follows:—Deduction has been made for remission below (G) of £1,100, the amount of tax now received annually from the crown (other than the £1,000,000, which is the sum of the rates for reductions in the assessed rates; while addition has been required of a sum of £6,000, the estimated product of the additional shipping-rate to be levied for the cost of the Cape Rock Light, and £1,000,000, the sum of the duties on spirits, chiefly derived from premiums on the sales of land,—which as representing capital strictly excluded from the accounts of Ordinary Revenue—the amount to be expected will largely depend on (G) the result of the proposed alterations in the duties which have been made by the Governor with the view to the removal for the Military restriction

The message of His Excellency the Governor, read at the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 7th inst., gives an extremely gratifying review of the financial position of the colony. The balance of revenue over ordinary expenditure for next year is estimated at \$348,053, of which must be added \$150,000, the amount estimated to be raised from land premiums. It is in the excess of revenue over expenditure that the colony must look for the indication of the colony's prosperity. As regards the ability and the justification of the colony to borrow funds for works which will benefit future generations as well as the present, the Governor points to the assets of the colony in the shape of its unswollen lands and its two magnificent systems of water supply. His Excellency as to the value of these assets, it would, we think, be a policy attended with some risk to borrow money on them, unless the balance of revenue over extraordinary expenditure showed a sufficient margin to cover interest and sinking fund. The progress of the colony late of late years has been such as to lead to the reasonable doubt that it will be equally or still more remarkable in future. But this progress may not be uninterrupted. From 1855 to 1875 the colony practically stood still, and similar periods of stagnation may well occur in the future. The execution of large public works in itself gives to a place a better reputation, and the colony has many, which disappears when the works are completed and the amount expended on wages and material is no longer placed in circulation. This has been the experience of many of the newer towns in England, where the rapid growth of population bring to the rising industries led to a great demand for houses; and when the population ceases to grow, one of the most important in the place, but when the supply of houses came near overtaking the demand the builders left for other places, and their withdrawal left the houses they occupied vacant, lessened the circulation of money, and caused a period of depression to set in. The carrying out of the Praya Reclamation scheme and the four large works which will be carried out will necessarily cause a large influx of population, but it will be only a flux to bear in mind the possibility of a slack period supervening. The value of land, too, may suffer a decline. His Excellency speaks of the valuation of the Praya reclamation at \$97,477 being more than justified by existing market prices, but in the case of the Praya, there is no reason to expect the existing market prices to be affected by the throwing of this large extent of land on the market, unless the trade of the colony increases as fast as the reclamation can be made, which would be a very sanguine view indeed. Values may be kept up by holders refusing to sell until the demand has again overtaken the supply, as it usually will, but the possibility of a slack period supervening is a period of such prosperity as we have been enjoying of late and are likely to enjoy for some years to come while the work is in progress. If the colony then found itself saddled with a loan contracted on too rosy a view of its prosperity it might find a difficulty in meeting its obligations, and the consequences of a slack period of selling land without the condition of immediate building, and thus abandon to speculators the profit that would otherwise be reaped by the community. For this reason we say that the limits of our borrowing ought to be strictly governed by those of the excess of revenue over ordinary expenditure, which is the only safe basis of selling land without the condition of immediate building, and thus abandon to speculators the profit that would otherwise be reaped by the community. For this reason we say that the limits of our borrowing ought to be strictly governed by those of the excess of revenue over ordinary expenditure, which is the only safe basis of selling land without the condition of immediate building, and thus abandon to speculators the profit that would otherwise be reaped by the community.

If a loan were required, the balance shown in the present estimates would justify one of several millions of dollars; for though it would not be safe to reckon on the prosperity of the colony increasing in the same ratio as in the past twelve years, there is no reason to anticipate a proportionate diminution of the amount that can reasonably be anticipated is that we might stand still. But even if the trade of the colony stood still, a substantial increase in the revenue may still be looked for in view of the increasing value of the opium farm, an increase not mainly dependent on growth of population, but on the facilities now afforded for producing a large amount of the monopoly. It does not, however, appear that a loan is required at once. With the balance in the Treasury at the end of the present year and the estimated surplus next year there will be a total sum of \$878,053 available for the cost of public works and to meet unforeseen contingencies. The extraordinary public expenditure of \$687,826, being the net interest expenditure of \$687,826, which will leave a balance of \$240,000 to be carried forward to 1880, when the balance of revenue over ordinary expenditure will be again swelled by the new opium contract being in force for the full twelve months instead of nine months only, as will be the case next year. The extraordinary public works provided for in the present Estimates are as follow:

New Water Main, Victoria Harbor	\$80,000
Main Drainage and Sanitary Works, Victoria Harbor	50,000
separate system	50,000
Waterworks, Victoria Harbor	803,000
regained during the year	50,000
New Central Market	70,000
Public Buildings, Victoria Harbor	10,000
Slaughter-house, Kew-Long	8,000
Hospital Quarters for nurse and staff	30,000
Police Station, Victoria Harbor	10,000
Wash houses for people	20,000
Shops and Pig Market	25,000
Police Station, Victoria Harbor	10,000
Police Station, Victoria Harbor	10,000
Lunatic Asylum for (these Completion)	15,000
Police Station, Victoria Harbor	10,000
Police Station, Victoria Harbor	10,000
Police Station, Victoria Harbor	10,000
New offices, stores, and residence, for the Department of Education and Agriculture	15,000
Public Hospital	50,000
Police Station, Victoria Harbor	10,000
Piggery, Victoria Harbor	25,000
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Piggery, Victoria Harbor	25,000
Piggery, Victoria Harbor	25,000
Gap Rock lighthouse (Estimated cost of which required in 1880)	30,000
Total	\$878,053

Most of these are urgently required, and to none of them can an exception be taken, unless it be that of the Piggery, which is not an essential part of the public works, and the adoption of the separate system of drainage is called in question. It will be noted that the Tyam Waterworks no longer appear in the list, that large undertaking being now practically complete. Amongst the works which will be provided with especial satisfaction are the new works for female prisoners, the new Hospital, public wash houses, and the new Police Station. The public works mentioned in the above list there are others, involving larger expenditures, mentioned in the Governor's message. These are a new Harbour Office, which requires to be placed on the proposed reclamation; new Supreme Court Buildings, Post Office, and a new Police Office, all of which are proposed to be placed on the proposed reclamation. The Government Offices in one large building to be erected on the site of the present North Barracks and the reclamation in front of it, the extension of the Praya in front of the

THE CANTON CONSULAR REPORT
AND THE TRADE OF KWANGTUNG.

Mr. Consul ALABASTER, in his report on the trade of Canton for 1887, says that although the returns obtained from the Imperial Maritime Customs show that the total value of the trade was £7,374,137, as against £7,358,405 in 1886, read rightly they show a considerable falling-off, for, as the institution of a free port of call, and under a free trade duties in Hongkong on the junk trade thence led to a considerable amount of goods, which otherwise would have been brought by junk or overland, being carried by steamer, the Customs returns for 1887 are much larger than they were for 1886. The value of the trade which existed in 1883 had continued. The Consul goes on to say:—"The value of 6,632 chests of opium and 827,280 gallons of kerosene, which appear in the returns of 1887, but which do not appear, although an equal amount was imported by junk, in 1886, 3,227,055 piculs, as was actually the case, chiefly in native imports; and, if accurate returns could be procured, I am afraid the falling-off in value would seem to be even greater, for, although some branches of trade may have developed, the province is still a very poor one, and the trade is depressed trade." That the province is overtaxed is true; but with this exception the impression conveyed by the above is, we think, erroneous. Mr. ALABASTER says the falling off was chiefly in native produce. As a matter of fact it is almost covered by the increase in the value of the trade of 2,161,370 piculs of a value of £3,285,504 having been imported in 1887 as against 4,078,995 of a value of £3,659,515 in 1886, which was a year of scarcity in the Kwangtung province. That there was less security last year, and that the returns show a falling off in the value of the trade, we do not support the statement; that the trade was depressed, nor can we find any justification for the statement elsewhere in the returns. Eliminating opium and kerosene, we find that there has been a slight falling off in the import of foreign goods, owing to the increase in the value of the trade, which may be more than accounted for by the increase in junk borne cargo. Mr. WILSON, the Commissioner of Customs, in his report for last year, says:—"Native merchants are encouraged by a low tariff to import pieces

goods to the coast, through Canton in transit inland for Sheklung and Kunming now goes direct to those places, and so evades the extra tax and impost. All kinds of woollen goods show a marked decrease, which is attributable, not to any falling off in demand, but to the fact of the carrying trade junkie now conveying considerable quantities of foreign goods direct to the consuming districts inland. Canton, which used to be the general centre of the provincial trade, is thus deprived of some of its commission business, and the state of affairs may be said to be presenting very fairly the actual requirements of the city itself and its immediate vicinity." There are no statistics of the junk borne trade earlier than 1887, with which a comparison can be instituted, but the Kowloon Customs Returns for the nine months of the year 1886, show that the value of the goods imported, exported and onwards, of over Tls. 18,800,000, or an estimated annual total of nearly Tls. 25,000,000. Imports of foreign origin account for Tls. 6,274,000 of the Tls. 18,800,000; which, leaving out opium and kerosene, is considerably more than the foreign imports of the whole of China. Although, as remarked above, there are grounds of instituting a comparison of the junk borne trade of last year with that of previous years, the report of the Harbour Master of Hongkong gives us the number and tonnage of the vessels engaged in the traffic. The figures for the year 1886, as compared with the year 1885, as the year showed an increase, the figures being 28,521 vessels of 1,798,938 tons as against 28,271 vessels of 1,753,886 tons in 1886, or an increase of over 41,000 tons. This increase, though not very remarkable, and falling to bring the junk trade up to the level of the steamship trade of the previous years, is in itself more than sufficient to account of the small decrease in the import of foreign goods (other than

gium and Korean) passing through the large Customs at Canton, and which, in connection with the fact that more than three millions worth of opium that used to be junk now goes by steamer, shows that other articles there must have been a very large increase. Mr. ALABASTER, in his report, is out by condemning the transfer of the exactions outside this declining point because it being that it "will enable better statistics of the trade of this district to be obtained in future," but he goes on to say: "Whether it is worth giving so much to the Government is still perhaps a question." Speaking of the decline in the export of pieces goods, he mentions the assistance of the foreign consuls at Canton, here it is said that it is at a great extent the result of the markets at Shensi and Kungnung supplied from Hongkong by junk trade, instead of, as in former years, by steamer through Canton." If this were so it would in itself be a sufficient justification of the action of the consuls at Canton. The complaint of the Hongkong Merchants against the Native Customs was that junks were subjected to unnecessary delays and illegal exactions; and it was said that if these were done away with the trade would increase, which is precisely what we find to be the case. But Mr. ALABASTER does not entirely agree with the Chinese consuls at the Canton returns to be accounted for, by an increase in the junk trade; he merely gives it as what is said to be the case, and goes on to offer another explanation on his own account. He does not think the Customs has really declined, though the Excess Returns show a decline, and the explanation he gives is that the market in the imports supplied from Canton, now increases their supplies overland through Fong-nien or Pakhoi, and thus escape lekin and other exactions they would be subjected to at Canton. The Pakhoi returns certainly show an increase, and a very substantial one, the value of foreign goods imported there last year being 771,371 ta, or 698,658 dollars, in 1,707,771 in 1855, and 1,636,542 in 1855. The Consul's reference to Pakhoi, therefore, is fully justified, with this qualification, that instead of our being compelled to choose between Pakhoi and Hongkong junk trade to explain a small efficiency at Canton, the fact seems to be that there was during the last year a considerable increase in the trade throughout the province generally. With reference to Tonquin we find, in referring to the French Customs Returns, that the value of the trade crossing the frontier from Tonquin to China was only 1,044,044 francs, to which cotton yarn contributed 10,280 francs and foreign pieces goods 29,535 francs. It is, however, in consideration of the increase in the trade into Canton, considering the increase or decrease of trade in South China, except, perhaps, as a new commencement of a trade that may assume larger proportions in the future. The diminution in foreign imports at Canton is, however, amply accounted for by the increase at Pakhoi and in the Hongkong junk trade, and the latter will, in all probability, continue to obtain a share in the Canton Arrangement has been an unutilized advantage to this colony.

Mr. ALABASTER refers to the estimated consumption of opium in Canton at 2,000 chests a month, and points out that recent returns show that less than 1,000 chests a month were imported in 1887. He says that the quantity of opium obtained was too large or that opium is obtained from some other quarter in Hongkong. The Returns issued by the Inspector-General of Customs have shown the totals of all sorts of opium brought to Hongkong yearly and the quantity paid for at the Treaty Ports. From an examination of these it will be seen that not more than 200 chests were accounted for by the export of junks to China, which was either smuggled or paid duty to the native authorities, the requirements of the Opium Farmer, and the shipments to places outside of China. The estimates therefore, of the requirements of Canton, we think, were too large, as the least calculation will show—for very little opium was taken through the Foreign Customs since the prohibition was enforced, and it has since come into force. It is quite clear, as the Chinese points out, however, that opium may be smuggled from places other than Hongkong by an arrangement with steamers from the coast, and that it may be transported by the Chinese Customs Authorities keep up a fleet of runners for the guarding of the west coast. It is, indeed, a fact, that the Chinese Customs at Hongkong had accepted the bulk of the opium of the Chinese Government, but a little consideration will show that without a revenue service which took place in the Canton River might have taken place twenty,

over ten miles from Hongkong, namely, the dropping of bags of opium from Singapore steamers coming to this port, just as they would to Hongkong.

The interesting returns of the junk trade with this port for the last nine months of 1887 should be read in connection with Mr. ALLENBASTER's report and statistics, but the foreign vessel traffic and the junk trade can only be fairly compared when we have only reports of the same kind from the Kowloon Commissioner for 1893. In some of the Canton Commissioner's reports it is stated that on favourable occasions as many as three and four chests of opium were smuggled by steamers to Canton in one day, and the smuggling by junk, it was stated, was not less than 100 chests of opium from the Hoppo sea to the collection made at a mere matter of conjecture, but now that the collection at the stations around Meaco and Hongkong is in the hands of the Foreign Inspectorate we shall have accurate returns, and the limits of smuggling will be more defined.

It is interesting with the Indian at Canton it is not easy to say. The Canton Commissioner's report in the Yellow Book just issued on the subject is not very full. In 1877 it was estimated that about 1,200 piculs came to Canton; in 1884 it was stated that 16,000 piculs were sold at that port. Now there is a falling off in the native drug or its movement is not recorded.

THE PROPOSED TRADE AND COMMERCE MUSEUM FOR SHANGHAI.

Mr. H. B. Morse, hon. secretary of the China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, in his monograph on the proposed establishment of a trade and commerce museum at Shanghai, remarking on the want of knowledge of the products of China, says:—
"Some few commodities, such as a mere glancing of the rich barrow" new article in the museum, and there one that has not taken immense strides; we may instance straw braid, of which the export through Shanghai amounted in 1867 to 945,000 piculs, and in 1897 to 1,609,953 piculs; nanke's wool in 1867, to 825 piculs, in 1897 to 14,728 piculs; ox-hide in 1867 to 146 piculs, in 1897 to

337 piculs. How many articles there are in the trade of China is not known but a few of the most important are, to swell the total trade of China,--Straw braid, mentioned by Mr. MORSE, now made third in the list of China's exports, though it is of course very behind silk and tea. The growth of the trade has been rapid since its commencement, but last year it took an enormous leap. The export for 1886 was 1,600,000 piculs; for 1887, 1,800,000 piculs; for 1888, 2,421,685 piculs; for 1889, 76,454 piculs; and for 1890, 82,413 piculs; and 1897, 150,553 piculs. The article comes to the principal port of export, Shanghai, chiefly from Tientsin and Peking. As Mr. McCLELLAN, the Statistical Commissioner of the Customs, remarks in his report on the trade of China for last year, those who compare the value of the straw braid exports with the value of the consumer goods which are sent to foreign markets, and it is therefore of special interest to find this simple manufacture developing into the magnitude which it has attained. Doubtless there are other products of China, as yet almost unknown, as straw braid was little more than thirty years ago, which must become prominent in the future. The Chinese Government museums would be of service in bringing such articles into notice, and in new or comparatively unworked lines there are large opportunities to be made. The same remark applies to imports, and is made by Mr. CONNELL BARRESTER in his Canton trade report in the following passage:—"India-rubber is a figure to the extent of 5,630 piculs, and the leading goods of Chinese origin, such as the various Chinese models and to suit Chinese tastes, and of various sizes, and it is worth drawing attention to these articles, for it is in outside lines that a great development of trade is to be expected; and for fortunes will be more readily made in sundry dress, soap, glass, candles, medicine pills, and such-like articles, beneath the attention of the merchant prince although they may be, than is the old-fashioned

From Mr. Mosser's sketch of the proposed museum it seems that it is intended to be really a museum of exports, and confining itself to these it has a wide field; but we would have thought that some attention should have been given to imports. The secretary speaks of the collection of the Chinese Government. These to these institutions is due the institution of commercial museums, of which there are no less than seventy-three organised in eleven countries. Of Europe, Germany alone having twenty-eight, and France sixteen. These museums, if we are not mistaken, are museums of commercial products, and not of manufactures. As regards the products of the districts in which they are situated. If at the commencement of the Shanghai inscription finds it necessary to change itself entirely to articles of Chinese production, it would be well that in organisation provision should be made for the possibility of a demand arising for the products of the provinces. It is in this respect that the plan is weak. In any case, by gathering together a full collection of the products of China the proposed museum will render valuable assistance to the expansion of the trade of the country, and the scheme is deserving of every support. The estimated cost of establishing the museum is £15,000, and, even which the Shanghai committee will, we think, have little difficulty in raising for such a useful object. As Mr. Mosser says:—"At present there is no public collection anywhere in China to which the merchant can of right refer for information on actual or potential staples of trade. For foreign communities are as much interested in the products of the country as the natives themselves. The source of the Empire is concerned, as if its members were on the other side of the globe. In a certain sense they are further removed from the means of acquiring information than is the public of London, Berlin, and Washington; for in these capitals collections are to be found from which much of the knowledge now available to the public is derived. It is in China, however, that by persons already in touch with Chinese commerce, that such information is needed."

The Inspector-General of Customs has been desired to give his aid and support, and in reply the Council of the C. B. R. Asiatic Society has been assured that if the support desired for elsewhere proves to the public, he will be ready to supplement the public's doings.

The Customs Examiners' collections of samples and the collections of raw products sent by China to the various International Exhibitions are in themselves more than the nucleus of a museum. There is therefore every prospect of the scheme being carried out, and it is to be hoped that it will be so, as if that proves to be the case it will probably not be long before it is imitated in other countries.

Mr. HENRY NORMAN, the *Pall Mall Gazette's* special commissioner, appeared at the meeting as the best informed man in the East. NORMAN, in pursuance of his engagement, arrived in Yokohama a short time ago, and, as usual at the points at which he stops, at the *Pall Mall Gazette's* letter describing his first impressions of Japan, or rather Yokohama, as he deals with that town alone. Naturally thinking that it would be interesting to our readers, he has been good enough to send them, the *Japan Mail* reproduced in its letter from the *Pall Mall Gazette*, and it appears to have raised an amount of interest beyond what the editor of our contemporary could have expected when he reprinted it. The Yokohama papers which have received to hand by the last two or three mail boats are full of letters from late correspondents and readers, all in the same terms for Mr. NORMAN. That gentleman, we believe, has left Yokohama on a short period, with the intention, however, of returning, but judging from the amount of the letters appearing in all the Yokohama papers, Mr. NORMAN, for his own part, would apparently be well advised to let his original intention. To an impartial observer, and a non-resident of Yokohama, it is a pleasant surprise to find that the Yokohama letters and the correspondence which

As is followed, in we think, that his critics are taking a good deal of fuss about a very small letter, MR. NORMAN's letter certainly did convey to our mind the terrible charges against the community which the corrections and amendments appear to have seen. The letter is a very readable one, written by a man as far as he had been in the country boy as a rule, and who gave his life for his country, and that they were not the people and things which he had seen that a resident of many years in America would be able to point to inaccuracies in such a description as only natural and to be expected, but one who have thought that so much heat and temper would need to be shown in so doing. Particularly, moreover, as MR. NORMAN did not, at the commencement of his letter, the difficulty of his task and the difficulties the

in undertaking it. One naturally looks for some other reason than inaccuracies in topographical descriptions as a cause for such a display of animus toward the makers of the letters. It lies revealed in the fact that, like the residents of many other places in the East, the country of Yokohama are, according to the opinion of the night porter, "Yokohama does not stand for the word 'Yokohama' as feeling arises wherever a small number of Europeans is made, and the character of the settlement the more marked the more so." "We must be cranked up," says the gentleman, "and express it." A special commissioner, or correspondent, or an employer, or any other name he may care to use, is sent to the place, and he comes back, and they attack the little weaknesses and communities, and provide the result. In passing, it will be read and taken in part even by those who are thus criticized, but let the correspondent visit our settlement at Tinianbo and hint that we are not in morals and manners perfect, and the whole town rises at him. Of the same character are the remarks in the *Yokohama* papers that of Mr. B. H. CHAPMAN is the most important, perhaps the one which deserves serious notice. These are palpably written by persons upon a score, unwittingly doubtless, Mr. Chapman has trodden. "Sandy Hook" is the *Japan Gazette* is a good specimen of this class. The *Yokohama* has the following terms:—"The *Monocacy*," "Island Sound ferry boat so old and rusty that it would probably be unsafe to steam in her, and she will doubtless be broken up and sold piecemeal not a mile from where she lies." "We wonder that this is called 'Sandy Hook' ferry, and that the *Monocacy* is so named. The *Monocacy* was so 'cranky' and express it better to mention that it would have been better

Mr. NORMAN has come committed vicerather than to come to Japan to discuss the *Monocopoly*. But the able letter of C. CHAMBERLAIN is evidently written in different spirit, although the charges it forwards against Mr. NORMAN are equally true. Those who have been prejudiced might think that Mr. CHAMBERLAIN was unnecessarily severe, has magnified considerably the criticisms of Mr. NORMAN, and that one or two will be sufficient to show Mr. NORMAN asserted that the foreign residents of Yokohama were "not allowed to carry their banking money; that he said they had no sympathy with or interest in the place or its inhabitants, and he emphasises the contempt which he says is shown by the Japanese by Europeans, by giving a conversation which passed between himself and a merchant in Yokohama, whose duty for carrying through a profitable business was to be at the disposal of the representative of the Japanese Government, and if they are disappointed merchant paid an attention regarding the Japanese more favourable than politics." Mr. CHAMBERLAIN contrasts this statement, and proceeds to give a very glowing account of what Europeans have done for Japan, and to sum up by saying that "the foreigners in Japan have made Japan a civilisation, and they get in return a pittance." Mr. NORMAN may, undoubtedly, have exaggerated a little, but is Mr. CHAMBERLAIN also guilty of the same fault? The first part of Mr. NORMAN's statement is undoubtedly true; i.e., we

if not the sole idea of Europe settling in a foreign country to make, if possible, a fortune, may be, possibly, otherwise, but they are a long way behind this one, and are already made subservient to it. The impression certainly conveyed by the pamphlet is that foreign residents are called upon for the sole purpose of benefiting inhabitants of that country. There, again, Mr. NORMAN remarks that the presence of a subject in Yokohama for long periods has a direct effect in other ways than in doubling prices of provisions, and adds, "No one, of course, would-famously, and it is sorer than that if it were not so, the world would grow there, the experienced cooip-will never work at that once." Mr. CHAMBERLAIN characterises this assertion as an endeavour "by dark hints to fasten on its straitjacket men the odious and utterly false standard of having contributed to lower the standard of morality in Japan." Another point in the pamphlet is the statement of Mr. NORMAN's, delicately in the columns of a public journal that must have been done a month after Mr. NORMAN was expelled, to "No. 9," that he wrote great impressions. Other instances might

The very excellent speech made by the Go

At the meeting of the Legislative Council on 17th inst. on the Gambling Ordinance Amendment Bill, will commend itself to the members of the Council. His Excellency the Governor will recognise the evils of gambling, as every one must do, but he also recognises the difficulty, if not the impossibility, of putting a stop to it, and the impracticability that attends the working of the present law. That the number of criminals who are sent to gaol should be augmented by collecting the keepers of gambling houses, the men who receive the bets, and the persons who are few cast in a gambling house, is not only an injustice to the latter, but throws unnecessary and useless expense on the colony. The keepers of gambling houses, the men who receive the bets, and the persons who are few cast in a gambling house, is not only an injustice to the latter, but throws unnecessary and useless expense on the colony. The keepers of gambling houses, the men who receive the bets, and the persons who are few cast in a gambling house, is not only an injustice to the latter, but throws unnecessary and useless expense on the colony. The keepers of gambling houses, the men who receive the bets, and the persons who are few cast in a gambling house, is not only an injustice to the latter, but throws unnecessary and useless expense on the colony.

The community at large will share the

greatly expressed by His Excellency the Governor in his message of the 17th instant the approaching retirement of the Hon. M. P. Pate, the Surveyor-General. No officer in the service has been a harder worker than Mr. Pate, and no one more successful. His many traits are to be found on every hand. During his fifteen years' residence in the colony the Hon. gentleman has carried out many great and important works, has beautified the town, and in numerous ways has contributed to the convenience, comfort, and health of the inhabitants. When Mr. Pate leaves he will naturally be the recipient of a eulogistic address, and the subject of a complimentary notice in the press; these we will not attempt to anticipate at the present moment, but it would be ungrateful to withhold the first official notice of the approaching retirement of one to whom the colony owes so much to pass without an expression of regret. The step Mr. Pate is now taking has been in contemplation for some time, but has been delayed until the completion of the proposed new City of Pyram waterworks, which will provide the town with an abundant supply of water, while advantage has been taken of the construction of the conduit along the hill side to make a road which, as a promenade, is surpassed in few places in the world. Of all the large and important works he has undertaken none so bears Mr. Pate's own name, but now that the work is completed, it is fitting that the colony should hope he will allow his name to be associated with something, either road, street, building, by which it will be handed down to posterity.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held

on the 17th inst. There were present:—
 His EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, Sir WILLIAM DESS VEGU, K.C.M.G.
 Hon. J. RUSSELL, C.M.G., Acting Chief Justice.
 Hon. F. STEWART, LL.D., Colonial Secretary.
 Hon. E. L. O'WALLEY, Attorney-General.
 Hon. H. E. WOODHOUSE, C.M.G., Acting Colonial Treasurer.
 Hon. J. M. PRICE, Surveyor-General.
 Hon. W. M. DEANE, Captain Superintendent of Police.
 Hon. P. RYRIE.
 Hon. WONG SHING.
 Hon. J. BELL-IRVING.
 Hon. B. BATTON.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE OF THE ESTIMATE OF THE REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 1883. BY HIS EXCELLENCY read the following message:

G. WILLIAM DE VOGU.

The Governor has directed to be laid on the table for the consideration of the Legislature, the Annual Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for 1883.

REVENUE.

With the taxation remaining as at present the Estimate of Ordinary Revenue would have been \$1,746,818, or an increase of \$393,148 as compared with the estimate for the year 1882, and compared with what will probably be the actual Revenue of 1883, provision requiring to be made for the largely enhanced price obtained for the new Opium Farm Contract, which will afford a fine month of the coming year, and also for the substantial revenues in various other items, and principally to the rapidly growing population.

and increasing prosperity of the Colony, and also in part, as regards Assessed taxes, to more careful rating and better collection. The following table, which is based on the amount appearing as the estimate of Revenue is \$1,707,715, the difference being produced as follows:—Deduction has been made for reasons given below (i) of \$1,100, the amount of tax now levied on the headmen of cargo-boats; and (ii) of \$47,000 for reductions in the assessed rates; while addition has been required of a sum of \$85,000, the estimated profit of the additional shipping-rate on the cargo of the boats plying to and from the house. As regards Extraordinary Receipts, chiefly derived from premiums on the sales of land—which as representing capital strictly excluded from the account of Ordinary Revenue, have been deducted, the total of the balance on (i) the result of the strong representations which have been made by the Governor with the view to the removal for the Military restrictions on the sale of the land, and (ii) on the approval of His Majesty's Government of the project, about to be submitted, for the Extension of the Praya in front of the Admiralty and War Office Reserves. Allowance being made for the above, the balance to be realised under any circumstances, the total receipts of the year would amount to \$1,887,715.

\$1,394,665 or an increase of \$62,472 as compared with that for 18-8. The apparent increase in

Departmental expenses of \$91,808 is due, as regards \$35,474, to votes for Scavenging and for the Lock Hospital, which have hitherto appeared under the head of Miscellaneous services, and are now transferred to the Sanitary and Medical Departments respectively. The real increase under this head, \$56,334 (principally due to the needs of the increasing population,) will be, as usual explained in detail before the Finance Committee. Some of the principal items, however, deserve special notice.

ment of this department amounts in the aggregate to \$16,708. The recommendations which

involve this increase have been made only after careful consideration and consultation with Mr. Price, the Surveyor-General, who, it may be recalled, has been in Hongkong since his appointment from them, as to the Governor's deep regret, the colony is about to suffer the loss of his most valuable services, he having applied to return to the great work of his native land. The duties connected with the public works of Hongkong appear to be especially prejudicial to the health of the officers. The occasions are rare during the hot season when several of these officers are able to obtain leave. In the last month no less than nine officers at one time were unfit for duty, and many works were thereby unduly retarded. As one instance, out of the 100,000 cubic feet of stone required for the Frigate front of the Admiralty and War Office, property have, on this cause, been delayed for several months; and it has therefore been necessary to submit to Her Majesty's Government a request for the appointment of an extremely important improvement, which, the Governor is most glad to announce, received early in the year the concurrence of the local authorities, Civil, Naval, and Military (the question of the cost of the improvement being to be paid respectively by the Local and Imperial Governments remaining yet to be settled). The staff as increased by these recommendations will, it is to be hoped, of the Governor, and under any circumstances, be required in the coming years. A still further, though temporary, addition to the strength of the Department will be made by the appointment of an immediate commencement of all the Public Works to which reference is made below.

Department is principally to supply an addition
to the numbers of the Force, required to meet

The additions to salaries in this Department are chiefly for the purpose of bringing about a very necessary improvement in the staff, the remuneration hitherto given having rarely proved sufficient to be a permanent attraction to good officers. The increase to the salary of the Superintendent, the Governor has felt compelled to recommend for reasons which will be explained in Finance Committee.

\$1,737,718, and ordinary Expenditure at \$1,894,665 there is thus a balance of \$2,803,808.

Certain recommendations which the Governor intends to make to the Secretary of State, but which cannot be introduced into the Estimates without further consideration by the Council, will include a sum certainly not exceeding \$60,000 being added \$288,943. Adding to this \$150,000 which has been stated as likely under any circumstances to be required for the purchase of land, and \$445,000 the probable balance in the Treasury at the end of the present year, there results a total of \$778,943 available for the cost of Public Buildings.

The Extraordinary Public Works specified in the List accompanying the Estimates are all of them urgently needed. The necessity for their being immediately undertaken is clear, different from that which would be felt if they were not, and, in the opinion of the Governor can be commenced too soon. It will be seen that the amount sum which is estimated as likely to be available for such purposes during the coming year is \$631,936. This amount can be readily afforded, or apart from the steady advance which is going on in all directions, it may be said that the Government almost certainly be in 1899 a still larger supporter of Ordinary Revenue than in 1889, owing to the fact that the New Opium contract will be in force during the whole twelve months of the only next month, and that there is no reason to hope, the proposed works in connexion with the junction of the East and West Praya should be, before that time, in progress. As regards the other public buildings, receipts from Land-premises, owing to the fact that would thereby be given to building in the Eastern district of Victoria, and the great increase in the number of persons employed in them by manufacturing concerns, suggest the

possibly require further explanation. The report of Mr. Cooper, the Sanitary Sur-

veyor, on this subject fully supported the attitude of the Government, and the Board of Engineers, and the valuable opinion and judgment of the Surveyor-General, has, however, produced in the Government a complete conviction of the necessity of the work as can be justly attributed to the Board of Engineers, and the Surveyor-General, that if the view of our local Engineers should be approved by the eminent professional authorities in England, to whom the question will be referred, this Government would assume a very grave responsibility if it failed to take the necessary action for the completion of the work, and the List there are (3) some equally required which cannot be commenced at once, such as a New Harbour Office, which requires to be placed on the

the proposed Reclamation Court Building, Post Office, and Registrar-General's Office, all of which it is proposed to include with the other Government Offices in one large building to be erected on the site of the present North Borneo Chartered Company's Office in front of it (the whole cost of these, however, being likely to be recouped by the sale of the sites of the present buildings); and (ii) others, which, it may be hoped will be commenced in the coming year; viz.

Extension of the Praya in front of the Admiralty and War Office Reserves roughly estimated to cost... \$400,000

Government portion of reclamation in front of the Town of Victoria... 363,400

Reclamations in Kowloon (first instalment)... 20,000

Total... \$783,400

These, however, being all works, not merely remunerative as are some of the others, but such as will very probably pay the whole of their cost, with in these the Reclamations, a large

[illegible]